



ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT

ESPRIT

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The flag is passed



Capt. Scott Fehnel prepares to pass the Corps of Engineers flag to Col. Craig. BG Witherspoon, Lower Mississippi Valley Division Commander, stands ready to accept the flag from Col. Craig and pass it to the new commander, Col. Suermann.

The St. Louis District changed commanders on a sunny but cold day, Friday, January 21, 1994. The ceremony was the fourth for the District since the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers became a Major Army Command in 1979.

Colonel Thomas C. Suermann became the 45th commander of the St. Louis District since the District's inception under Lieutenant Colonel William F. Raynolds in 1872.

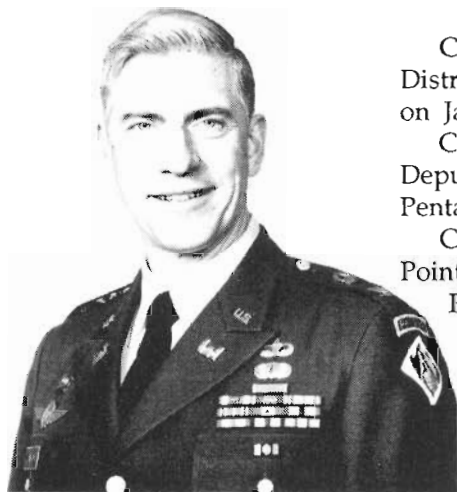
BG General Eugene S. Witherspoon, Commander of the Lower Mississippi Valley Division presided at the change of command ceremony.

The ceremony was held at the Marriott Pavilion Hotel in Downtown St. Louis. Several hundred people, including employees, federal, state and local agency representatives, contractors, area military leaders, civic group representatives and friends attended. A reception was held in the lobby area outside the

(Continued on page 3)



Our new commander —



COL Thomas C. Suermann

COLONEL THOMAS C. SUERMANN became the Commander and District Engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, on January 21, 1994.

Colonel Suermann's prior assignment was as Special Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Department of the Army at the Pentagon.

Colonel Suermann is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He holds a Master of Science in Engineering degree from Princeton University. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, and the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He is a graduate of the Army's Airborne, Ranger, Jungle Operations and Jumpmaster Schools, the NATO Weapons Targeting Course, and the USAF Space Operations Course. He is a Senior Parachutist.

Colonel Suermann has held numerous command and staff assignments in the United States, Europe, Korea and the Middle East.

These include: Command Engineer, 19th Support Command in Taegu, Korea; XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; member of the team which created the U.S. Army Space Command which was activated on April 7, 1988; Space Support Operations Officer and Command Engineer, U.S. Army Space Command; Commander of the Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers; Chief Engineer of the Multinational Force and Observers, the 11 nation peacekeeping force in the Sinai region of the Middle East.

Colonel Suermann's military decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), the Army Commendation Medal (four awards), the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal (two awards), the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Army Overseas Medal (three awards), the Multinational Force and Observers, and the de Fleury medal from the Engineer Regiment. He has also been awarded the U.S. Air Force Space Badge, the British Parachute Badge, the German Parachute Badge, the German Military Achievement Badge, and the Jungle Expert Badge.

Colonel Suermann is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Virginia. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, the National Society of Professional Engineers, the Professional Engineer Societies of North Carolina and Virginia, the Society of American Military Engineers and the West Point Society of Washington, D.C.

Colonel Suermann is married to the former June A. McNerney of Satellite Beach, Florida. They have two sons, Michael and Patrick.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Louis District

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● The flag is passed

main ballroom, where a four-piece combo played and refreshments were served.

The custom of acknowledging a change of commanding officers of a military unit in a formal ceremony traces back at least to Roman times. It is almost certainly even older, but its true origin is lost in pre-history.

The purpose of a change of command ceremony is to emphasize the continuity of leadership and unit identity despite changes in individual authority. The ceremony also symbolizes the transfer of command responsibility from one individual to another. This transfer is physically represented by passing the command flag, the

tangible symbol of the unit, from the old commander to the new. The next senior commander traditionally performs this transfer from old to new.



COL and Mrs. Suermann cut the ceremonial cake.



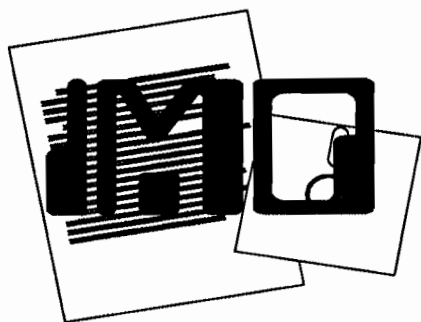
BG Witherspoon congratulates COL Craig after presenting him with the Legion of Merit medal.



COL Suermann speaks to the District after assuming command.



COL and Mrs. Suermann greet well wishers at the ceremony.



Printing and visual information services

With so many new employees joining the District within the past year, we in the IMO feel it necessary to explain how printing and visual information (still/video photography, graphics, audio) work is accomplished.

All printing and visual information work should be brought (with required request forms signed by an authorized employee) to IM-P in Room 4.100. All printing and visual information work is performed by various off-site contract services. The three IMO personnel involved in these functions use their expertise to aid cus-

tomers in deciding how the final product should appear and to ensure that the proper off-site contract service is contacted, properly instructed, and produces the product needed. Customers are notified when their job has been returned and ready for pickup.

Some jobs can be returned the next day. Other jobs may take several weeks. We would like to provide everyone with the specific time requirements for each type job. However, since each type of job can have numerous variables which affect turnaround time, it is impossible to provide anything meaningful concerning time requirements.

Many long-time users of our printing and visual information services have a good idea on how long to allow for completion of their particular jobs and can plan accordingly. Although outgoing printing and visual information work is prioritized based on District priorities (e.g., PL 84-99 work), there may be times in which our contract services cannot meet our requested return date because of shortness of suspense or overall volume of work.

When scheduling a project that will require printing or visual

information services, please include the time needed by our contract services into your schedule. If you are unsure of how long to allow for a particular job please contact one of the people listed below to discuss your job **BEFORE YOUR DEADLINE APPROACHES**. When a job is brought to the IMO and is needed sooner than we can guarantee, we will still try to accomplish it for you. Our contract services have been very good at working with us lately on short suspense high priority jobs. But when we are given insufficient lead time we can't guarantee 100 percent on the return, just on the effort.

So please keep in mind that various lengths of time are required for printing and visual information jobs. If you are unsure as to how long the job will take to complete, contact one of the personnel listed below to discuss your printing or visual information job requirements ahead of time.

For printing: Debbie Kuhlmann - 8638. For visual information: Russ Elliott - 8644 or Jack Rhodes - 8642.

Check out Nov. UMR Alumni Magazine

The November 1993 issue of the University of Missouri - Rolla Alumni Association magazine, "MSM Alumnus," contained a series of articles on the flood of 1993, highlighted by pieces on and quotes from the many UMR alumni in the District who were key players in the St. Louis District floodfight effort.

The issue contains an article about UMR co-op students who played a part in the floodfight.

There is also an article about the Corps containing photos of and quotes from Tom Lovelace, ED-H, Claude Strauser, ED-HP, Emmett Hahn, CO-R, Jim Brown, ED-GI, Dave Busse, ED-HP, Paul Kornberger, CO-O, Jerry Rapp, ED-HP, Mark Alvey, ED-GF, Don Fendler, CO-MC, Jake Scanlon, CO-R, and Lou Chiodini (just retired), PM-P.

There was also an article about Gary Dyhouse, ED-H, titled

"Hydrologist in the Media Spotlight."

If you know a UMR alumni, ask about this issue. You may find it interesting reading.

Quotables

Thousands of geniuses live and die undiscovered, either by themselves or by others.

Mark Twain



Trumpeter Swan returns

The Great White Trumpeter Swan, the largest of North American Waterfowl, has returned to the Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area (EDA) for the third consecutive year. First spotted in 1992, four trumpeters from the Wisconsin Trumpeter Swan Recovery Program migrated to the area and settled in the EDA to rest on their migration to warmer weather. The same four swans have come to Riverlands for three consecutive winters.

The Trumpeter Swans are marked with a yellow neck collar with a black number-letter code and an aluminum leg band to provide wildlife managers with valuable data on their movement and survival.

When first spotted at Riverlands, rangers contacted Lisa Hartman from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to report the sighting. "The swans at Riverlands are hatched from Alaskan eggs and raised at the Milwaukee Zoo," Hartman said. The birds are then transported to northern Wisconsin where they are imprinted on a decoy swan. Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan are attempting to reestablish Trumpeter Swans by rearing

cygnets (immature swans) in captivity. After two years, unrelated birds are paired and released at selected wetlands. The swans have been reported wintering along the Mississippi Flyway states.

Once considered for federal "endangered" status, the Trumpeter is not officially listed as threatened or endangered. In the Midwest, however, it is actually more rare than the threatened Bald Eagle. Trumpeters are protected from hunting in the United States.

The threat of decreasing wetland habitat quantity and quality could affect the long-term growth and stability of the Trumpeter Swan populations. Public involvement and understanding of wetland values is crucial to the long-term success of Trumpeter Swan restoration programs.

The goal of the Wisconsin Trumpeter Swan Recovery Program is to have 20 breeding and migratory pairs by the year 2000. With hope, visitors to Riverlands will be able to see the Trumpeters return every year to enjoy their southern migration habitat. Perhaps one day we will have a breeding pair of Trumpeters on Teal Pond.

Mark Twain outreach programs

Mark Twain Lake Park Ranger Steven Wagner participated in the "Flood Recovery" Program sponsored by the University of Missouri Extension Division. Steven presented a water safety program to 25 participants who were impacted by the devastating flood of 1993. The purpose of this effort is to help relieve stress brought on by the changes caused by the flood and to reintroduce water as a recreation.

Mark Twain Lake is continuing its participation in outreach education programs with a new series of activities this winter. Plans include a visit by the "Flood Recovery" group this month with a wildlife program called, "Valentines for Wildlife." This program was designed to encourage and inform participants on the various methods of feeding wildlife.

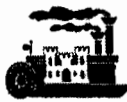
Many eagles at Riverlands

Eagles have returned to Riverlands! Riverlands rangers, volunteers and visitors began daily bald eagle counts in the Riverlands Region in mid-November. Numbers have gradually increased because of the colder winter conditions. The highest count to date in Ellis Bay, on a given day has been 52 eagles, a mixture of mature and immature.

The Great Rivers Chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society spotted a record 478 bald eagles from Hartford, Illinois, on the Mississippi River to Hardin, Illinois, on the Illinois River, in their annual National Audubon Eagle Census. "It's the most eagles we've ever seen in our winter count," said Helen Wuestenfeld, of the Great Rivers Chapter. "It was a beautiful sight."

The Bald Eagles migrate to the Riverlands Region from November to March. They roost and feed near the open waters near the locks and dams. Rangers at Clarksville and West Alton Riverlands Offices have been overwhelmed by visitors coming to view the majestic Bald Eagles.

The Riverlands Area Office hosted two "Masters of the Sky" weekends in cooperation with the World Bird Sanctuary and the Riverlands Association. The first was held in Alton, Illinois, January 8-9 at the Alton Belle Casino landing. Visitors could view eagles on the ice and in the adjacent trees as well as get an up close view of eagles on display. Clarksville hosted the second weekend January 15-16. Record cold temperatures did not stop visitors from coming to view the eagles at this program.



On The Soapbox

Around the District

Terry Norris, PD-A, spoke to an Honors History Seminar at St. Louis University about the recent colonial period archaeological Investigations conducted by the St. Louis District.

Gary Dyhouse, ED-H, spoke to the White House Sub-Committee for Floodplain Management Measures about the St. Louis District flood experiences. Gary was also interviewed on KMOX radio on flood recovery efforts and spoke to the International Facilities Managers Association and the New Athen Rotary Club.

Ken Koller, PM-M, spoke to the Lake St. Louis Ambassador's Club about construction of Melvin Price Locks and Dam project.

Riverlands Office

Park Ranger Julie Ziino, Stay-in-School Charlie Deutsch and Volunteer Bill Hayward conducted an Eagle Program for 120 students from Estelle Kampmeyer School. The students learned about Riverlands, the natural history of

the Bald Eagles and tips on the best viewing tactics.

Julie Ziino also did an eagle program for a group of Home School students and their parents. The five degree temperature didn't stop the students from getting out and looking for eagles.

Julie Ziino, in cooperation with the Alton Convention and Visitors Bureau has been conducting weekend eagle viewing trips at Ellis Bay. The bus load of visitors stay warm inside with their binoculars pinned to the windows to view the eagles. More than 80 eagles were spotted during the first weekend trip.

Volunteer Bill Hayward conducted two tours of the Melvin Price Locks and Dam for students from Alton High School.

Park Ranger Lawrence Williams spoke to the Northgate Garden Club about Riverlands Flora and Fauna and the affects of the flood.

Lake Shelbyville

Park Rangers Leanne Crouch and Terri Morris presented a program about edible and medici-

nal plants in the area to a local Senior Citizens group. Terri also gave an informative program on the lake to a tour bus group from Kankakee.

Park Rangers Leanne Crouch, Terri Morris and Maria Shafer spoke to several bus tour groups who stopped by the Visitor Center after viewing the Festival of Lights at Eagle Creek State Park.

Wappapello Lake

Park Manager Michael McClendon was interviewed by KFVS-12 TV in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, about the user fee issue and other general lake information.

Park Ranger Dan Camden was interviewed by Game and Fish Magazine about catfishing at the lake for an upcoming article.

Park Ranger Art Ruebenson was interviewed by the Daily American Republic newspaper in Poplar Bluff about the 12th Annual Fish Shelter Day. He provided information on dates and locations for collection and placement of old Christmas trees and the benefits to the fish population at the lake.

Women's Memorial closer to goal

By Master Sgt. Linda Lee, USA
American Forces Information
Service

The Women in Military Service for America Memorial is \$74,000 closer to its goal, thanks to the Defense Commissary Agency and several food companies.

To help the women's memorial foundation reach its goal of about \$14 million, the commissary agency

and five manufacturers agreed to promote the memorial through a special sale.

The participating companies promised 25 cents for each case of specific products sold during the two-week "Women in the Military" sales held earlier this year. The companies, which designate 40 products to support the sale, were Best Foods, Campbell Soup, Dial Soap, Mars Candy and Pet Foods.

Commissary officials said almost 300,000 cases of the products were sold. In addition, coupons and special sales held in conjunction with the two-week sale saved commissary shoppers more than \$2 million.

The memorial will be built at the gateway to Arlington (Va.) National Cemetery, outside of Washington. It will honor all

(Continued on next page)



News Briefs

Baby Doty

Park Ranger Pam Doty and her husband Wilson are the proud parents of a baby boy. Richard Ethan weighed in at 7 lbs., 9 oz.

High lake level

On December 7th, Lake Shelbyville reached its second highest level on record. The pool level reached 617.66, seventeen feet above the normal pool of 599.7. The all-time record high was 620.26 on June 29, 1974. Maintenance crews and rangers have been kept busy posting road closed signs and preparing to repair water damaged facilities.

Festival of Lights

The Festival of Lights at Eagle Creek State Park attracted more than 150,000 vehicles this past season. Several tour buses came to Lake Shelbyville to view the lights and visit surrounding communities.

Waterfowl season

Some 13,165 hunters enjoyed the waterfowl season at Rend Lake. Although the number of overwintering Canada Geese was down to

a peak of near 45,000, hunters managed to take 7,910 during the season which ran from November 27 to January 16. Duck season was also successful and ran from November 6 through December 8.

Fish attractors

Christmas trees will be placed in nine locations in Rend Lake this year. These fish attractor locations are marked with buoys and are depicted on a map available to anglers. The trees provide ideal habitat for fish, while the fish attractor locations give anglers an edge on finding fishing hot spots.

New assistant

Rend Lake welcomed Andrea Pichard as the new Assistant Manager and Mark McLean as the new Civil Engineering Technician in recent weeks. Park Ranger Jackie Brachear will be leaving to join the Carlyle Lake staff this month.

Riverlands articles

The Riverlands Area has been featured in several magazines and newspapers lately. The Audubon magazine featured the Riverlands

Area in their February 1994 release. The St. Louis Homes and Garden magazine featured Area in their article on viewing bald eagles. The Alton Telegraph ran three feature articles on the Riverlands Area for viewing eagles and waterfowl. National Geographic's special feature edition on "Water" included photographs of the Mississippi River and the Riverlands Area by photographer Jim Richardson. The National Geographic also featured areas within Riverlands in their edition on "The Great Flood of '93."

Stratton moves

Wappapello Lake Park Ranger Diane Stratton has accepted a ranger position at Mark Twain Lake.

Lights auto tour

The first Festival of Lights Auto Tour at Wappapello Lake was a smashing success. More than 4,000 visitors enjoyed driving through the Redman Creek Campground and seeing several campsites decorated by various businesses and organizations. Next year's event is planned for December 15-23.

Memorial (cont.)

women who are serving, have served or will serve in the U.S. armed forces, said Wilma Vaught. A retired Air Force brigadier general, Vaught is president of the memorial foundation, which began in 1986.

The highlight of the memorial will be the visitors center, said Vaught. It will include a theater, a

Hall of Valor and a computerized data base that will include the photographs and military history of active duty and veterans registered with the foundation.

For more information on the memorial, call the foundation in Washington, toll-free at 1-800-222-2294, or write to: WIMSA, Dept. 560, Washington, DC 20042-0560.

Software support may cost

Next time you call a software support number, you could be paying about \$2 a minute for the privilege. Free unlimited telephone support is being eliminated by major software companies on at least some of their products. The costs of support, say software makers, have soared in recent years. At the same time, the prices of software programs have drifted downward.



Black History Month

The sky's the limit with right values

By F. Peter Wigginton
American Forces Information
Service

Young black men and women and other minorities need to realize they can be successful if they dedicate themselves to excellence in everything they do and set their objectives high, said Emmett Paige Jr.

As assistant secretary of defense for command, control, communications and intelligence, Paige holds one of DoD's highest executive positions.

"There's no reason today for any young man or woman not to think about being president of the United States," Paige said. "They should have the same dream President Bill Clinton had. There's no reason they can't make that dream or any other dream come true.

"It is very possible that we might have a minority male or female elected as president in their lifetime, or even in my lifetime... Almost anything is possible, and one must prepare oneself mentally, morally and emotionally to be competitive in this world we live in."

Born Feb. 20, 1931, Paige started preparing for his future early. Although his father was a truck driver who finished fourth grade and his mother completed only sixth, they were determined their two children would understand the value and need for education.

"They were determined that we would go to college," Paige said. Paige's mother enrolled him in

grade school at age 4. He was an eager student. But by the time he reached his junior year in high school, he was no longer challenged and dropped out. He briefly tried the Merchant Marine, then the Army at age 16.

Then began the 41-year career that took him from radio operator stationed in Japan to commanding general of U.S. Army Information Systems Command at Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

Shortly after basic training he also obtained a General Equivalency Diploma.

After serving with the 25th Infantry Division in Japan, he was reassigned to the states and later applied for Signal Officer Candidate School at Fort Monmouth, N.J.

Before he could enter OCS in 1951, he had to complete an eight-week leadership school at Fort Gordon, Ga. He was the first black to attend.

It was here that he was subjected to humiliation and discrimination because of his race. He recalled those weeks as "the worst days of my life."

Paige said he experienced many similar instances of prejudice. Often he was the only black officer in an organization and knew he had to be not just as good as his white contemporaries at what he did.

"To be just as good would cause me to be considered as below average," he said. "So I worked harder. I studied harder. I tried to be sure that I knew my job - and everybody else's job. Determination, perseverance, pride, confidence and self-respect were the

values that kept him hanging in there.

Paige thinks the nation, especially the military, has come a long way. But he sees minority service members having it tougher today than 20 years ago, with trends reversing in the past 10 years.

In 1965, as a major, he held a colonel's position as project manager for the design, engineering and acquisition of a communications system built by contractors throughout Southeast Asia. "We did an outstanding job. Fortunately, I had prepared myself to meet the challenge from management, leadership and technical points of view."

Paige's commanding general at that time told him the Army needed him as a general officer, but his lack of a degree would prevent that promotion. While overseas, Paige earned two years of college credit. When reassigned to the Defense Communications Agency in Arlington, Va., he attended class at the University of Maryland five nights a week for two and a half years. He completed the hours needed for a bachelor's degree, followed by a master's degree at The Pennsylvania State University.

Paige credits people around him for his accomplishments. "My troops and co-workers always worked hard to make me a success. The color of my skin, my race was never a factor with my troops and the people on my team," he said.

Paige enjoys working seven days a week. He says he would like to be remembered as a man who helped others to reach their dreams and to help them set their sights on the top.



\$ – Promotions & Incentive Awards – \$

PERFORMANCE AWARDS:

Linda Collins, DE
Stanley Zurweller, CO-MP
Joseph Smothers, CO-NC
Gary Stilts, CO-NW
Reta White, CO-NW
Michael Morgan, CO-ON1
John Branson, CO-OS-P
Tamara Atchley, ED-DA
Dennis Stephens, ED-HE
Frances Wachter, ED-HQ
Dixie Pickett, HR-R
Wendy Hearn, IR
Barry Lloyd, LM-S
Cynthia Morales, LM-T
Kenneth Rogers, LM-T
Lois King, PM-M
Debra Williams, PM-M
David DeBourge, RM-F
Jackie Jones, RM-F
LeRoy Kaiser, RM-F
William Jones, RO-LC-I
Michael Crain, CO-NC
Janine Hegger, CO-NC
Andrea Pickard, CO-NC
Stephen Trebs, CO-NC
Margaret Ellis, CO-NR
Daniel Camden, CO-NW

Douglas Nichols, CO-NW
Terry Helming, CO-ON1
Don Mirick, CO-OS4
Rickey Kemp, CO-OS7
Michael Feldmann, CO-QT
Robert Kelsey, ED-DA
James Mills, ED-DA
Edgar Falkner, ED-HG
James Keim, ED-HG
Edward Pelc, ED-HP
Robert Rapp, ED-HP
Stephen Redington, ED-HP-R
Barbara Scott, HR
John Jobst, IM-I
Natalie Eschmann, PD
Michael Trimble, PD-AC
Kathy Engelmann, PM-P
Richard Ubben, RO-S
Eugene Degenhardt, VE

QUALITY STEP INCREASES:

David Davis, CO-NC
Michael Hays, CO-NJ
James Twichell, ED-HQ
Steven Huskey, RM-F
Alan Berman, ED-HG
Jule Bartels, ED-HP-W
Donald Coleman, ED-HP-W
Mary Matecki, RE-P

SPECIAL ACT AWARDS:

Cathy Jaeger, CASU
Phyllis Thomas, CASU
Thomas Bugel, CO-MP
Penny Mudd, CO-NJ
Andrew Schimpf, ED-DM
Kenneth Porter, PD-AM
David DeBourge, RM-F
Steven Huskey, RM-F
Joseph Kellett, RO-S
Linda Manuel, CASU
Arthur Taylor, CASU
Gregory Dornier, CELMN
Lammert Buchhold, CO
Walter Feld, CO
Lawrence Williams, CO-NM
Dolores Ebert, DD
Laurie Busse, ED
Carl Okenfuss, ED-HG-G
Diadra Henley-James, HR-P
Terence Kelley, OC
Anson Eickhorst, PD-E
Richard Astrack, PD-F
Rochelle Ross, PM-M
Angela Sanders, RE
Woodrow Sandlin, RE
John Zimmerman, RO-SL

African-Americans play large role in military

By Master Sgt. Linda Lee, USA
American Forces Information
Service

Recent DoD personnel figures show the percentage of African-Americans in the military is higher than the percentage in the overall U.S. population.

DoD personnel officials said about 20 percent of the military force is African-American. Of the almost 1.7 million personnel in uniform DoD reported, about 330,000 are African-American.

This compares to the latest Census Bureau figures, which show about 31 million blacks in the United States, or about 12.4 percent of the population.

Army figures show 157,046 people, or 27.6 percent of the overall force, are African-American. The numbers break down to 8,353 officers, or 11.1 percent of the service's officers; 1,390 warrant officers, 10.6 percent; and 147,303 enlisted, 30.7 percent.

In the Navy, 16.1 percent are black. DoD figures indicate of the

81,262 blacks in the Navy, there are 2,860 officers, 4.5 percent of the total number of officers; 270 warrant officers, 9.7 percent; and 78,132 enlisted members, 17.8 percent.

A total of 16.6 percent of the Marine Corps, or 29,701 people, are African-American. Of these, there are 764 officers, 4.6 percent of the officers; 208 warrant officers, 10.8 percent; and 28,729 enlisted members, 17.9 percent.

(Continued on page 15)



IRS offers fast ways to file tax returns

American Forces Information Service

The Internal Revenue Service welcomes electronically filed and computer filed federal tax returns.

Tax returns filed electronically or by computer-generated forms cut down processing time and allow refunds to be made faster, said IRS officials. Taxpayers who file using either methods can receive their refunds in about three weeks as opposed to the normal eight weeks, added IRS officials.

In addition, IRS officials said they find fewer errors, like missing schedules and math mistakes, in these tax returns. Another point in favor of filing electronically is you can file a return early in the season and hold off paying taxes owed until the April 15 deadline.

Check your local area for an IRS-accepted preparer or transmission service and ask about filing services and costs. Remember, said IRS officials, you are responsible for everything in the tax return, whether you or the tax preparer filled out the forms.

An IRS-accepted electronic filer sends your tax return to the IRS. If the information is correct, the return is accepted and stored on tape. At this point, Treasury Department finance centers electronically receive refund information and either send a refund check to the taxpayer or directly deposit the amount into the individual's financial institution.

The IRS began accepting electronically filed tax returns on a trial basis in 1986, when 25,000 individuals used the service. It continues to gain in popularity, as more than 12 million taxpayers took advantage of the option during last year's filing season.

Things to consider when using a tax preparer or filer include:

- * Choose an individual or firm

who will be available to answer questions concerning your return months, or even years, after filing.

- * If you have a complex tax situation, consider hiring a certified public accountant.

- * Stay away from a tax preparer who claims to be able to get you a larger tax refund than others can or one whose fees are based on a percentage of your refund.

- * Make sure the preparer signs the return.

- * Make sure you get a complete copy of the entire return.

- * Never sign a blank form.

- * Make sure you are completely satisfied before the tax return is filed because you are responsible for what is in it.

The IRS also endorses computer-assisted tax filing. Some 1040PC software programs print out a tax return answer sheet, generating lines only where there are answers, while other programs print out the entire 1040 form. Using a personal computer, IRS officials said, the tax return ends up as a three-column list that fits on one or two pages. After printing the return, you mail it to IRS.

Software and 1040PC forms are not available through the IRS, but can be found at most computer software stores.

Complete information is available on the two options by calling the IRS Tele-Tax service at toll free 1-800-829-4477. For electronic filing, ask for Topic 252 and Topic 251 for computer filing.

Another tax filing initiative from IRS is TeleFile. IRS officials said some single residents in nine states who use the 1040EZ short form will receive TeleFile tax packages.

The way the program works is simple. Taxpayers call a toll-free number using a touch-tone telephone. They enter wages, interest and taxes withheld. While they are

on the telephone, IRS figures the adjusted gross income and either the refund or taxes due. Taxpayers sign a form, mail it to IRS and receive a refund within three weeks. If they owe taxes, they have until the April 15 deadline to pay.

IRS officials said test sites include cities in Florida, Indiana, South Carolina, Kentucky and West Virginia.

Several other tax filing programs that will be tested this year include tax packages with payment vouchers to be sent to a different address, separate from the tax return and tax packages with computer-scannable payment vouchers. IRS officials said they will select about 30 million people to take part in these tests.

Special office checks, resolves tax problems

American Forces Information Service

Tried to solve a problem with the Internal Revenue Service, but feel you have come up against the proverbial brick wall?

Don't worry, said IRS officials. IRS set up the Problem Resolution Office to deal with taxpayers' problems that other IRS personnel cannot handle or correct.

Any U.S. taxpayer who tries repeatedly to solve a tax problem through normal channels can ask the Problem Resolution Office for help, said IRS officials. Usually, the office can handle the complaint or problem in just a few days.

IRS officials said the people
(Continued on next page)



○ IRS refund service checks on late tax refund checks

American Forces Information Service

Give the Internal Revenue Service about eight weeks' processing time after you file your federal income tax before calling to check on the status of a tax refund.

If the check hasn't arrived at the end of eight weeks, call the IRS Automated Refund System at toll-free 1-800-829-4477. IRS updates tax refund information every seven days.

Information you need before calling the service includes Social Security number, filing status and the whole dollar amount of the expected refund.

○ The service operates Monday through Friday. If you use a touch-tone telephone, the hours are 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.; if you use a rotary telephone, call during normal business hours, said IRS officials.

Special office (continued)

who staff the Problem Resolution Offices are tax specialists used to dealing with complex issues.

Areas they handle include:

- * Incorrect IRS actions;
- * A delay of 45 days or more in getting an answer to a request for tax information or assistance;
- * Suspension of agency actions under certain circumstances;
- * Problems that remain after discussion with an IRS employee's supervisor;
- * Overdue refunds - you filed your tax return more than 90 days ago and have contacted IRS; and
- * Receipt of a third notice from IRS after responding to the earlier ones.

However, the Problem Resolution Office can't handle certain problem types. These include, but

Ever wonder why it takes the IRS awhile to issue a tax refund? Once the tax return is delivered to the IRS service center, it is opened and sorted according to the type of return.

The returns are coded and edited for computer input with the information placed on magnetic tape. Information and math accuracy are checked. If it all checks out, the tapes are sent to the IRS computing center where the final return information is credited to the taxpayer's account. The Treasury Department's regional finance centers then receive refund tapes and issue the checks.

IRS officials suggest you file your tax return in January or February, if you can. Fewer returns are filed during this time frame, which speeds the refund process; in some cases, a check can be in the mail just three or four weeks after filing the return.

are not limited to, Freedom of Information Act requests, appeals of decisions made in tax examinations, Privacy Act inquiries and hiring practice complaints.

Specific information on the problem resolution program can be found in IRS Publication 1546, "Problem Resolution Program." For a free copy, call IRS toll-free at 1-800-829-3676 or write to: IRS, Forms Distribution Center, P.O. Box 25866, Richmond, VA 23289.

For help with resolving a problem, check with the local IRS office or IRS district director, or call toll-free 1-800-829-1040. Hearing impaired individuals who have a telecommunication device for the deaf may call toll-free 1-800-829-4059.

Taxpayers do have rights

American Forces Information Service

Thanks to a 1988 law, the Internal Revenue Service has to tell you what action it is taking against you in plain, easy-to-understand language.

In response to numerous complaints from taxpayers that IRS was not treating people fairly, Congress added what is known as the "Taxpayer's Bill of Rights" to another piece of tax legislation.

These rights include the right to complete privacy and confidentiality; the right to fair, courteous and considerate treatment; the right to appeal an examiner's audit findings; and that IRS will pay interest on any refund it delays in paying you.

If your tax return is audited or you are involved in a formal collection interview, IRS must give you a written copy of your rights, as well as information on the audit and collection process. If you wish, you have the right to record the interview on audiotape; IRS may wish to record the interview also, but it has to give you 10 days' notice that it intends to tape the meeting.

If IRS decides that you owe more taxes or penalties or interest, it must explain its reasoning to you in detail.

If, after you have filed your tax return, you feel that you have paid too much in taxes, you may request a refund. However, IRS officials said the burden of proof is on you.

If paying taxes will cause you significant hardships, IRS may help you arrange an installment payment plan, or it may decide to suspend collection.

(Continued on page 12)



Rights (cont.)

The law also talks about audit location rules, property seizure, acting on wrong IRS advice and possible court action against the U.S. government.

IRS officials said their job is to collect the correct amount of taxes in the fairest and least costly way possible. The rights bill guarantees that you, as a taxpayer, will not be mistreated nor will you pay more than your fair share of taxes, they added.

For complete details on the rights, ask for a copy of IRS Publication 1, "Your Rights as a Taxpayer." Call IRS toll-free at 1-800-829-3676 or write to: IRS, Forms Distribution Center, P.O. Box 25866, Richmond, VA 23289.

How to ensure tax payment credit

Need a copy of your federal tax return from two years ago, but can't find it? Don't worry, the Internal Revenue Service can help you get copies of any of your federal tax returns.

Call IRS toll-free at 1-800-829-3676 to request a free copy of Form 4506, "Request for Copy of Tax Form." Send the completed form and payment to the IRS center where you filed the original return. There is a \$4.25 charge per return, said IRS. Allow at least six weeks' processing time.

In some instances, only the W-2, "Wage and Earnings Statement," or some other form may be required. If that's so, there may be no charge.

For specific information on copies, check with your local IRS office or call toll-free 1-800-829-1040.

Lost or incorrect W-2 forms

Lost your W-2, "Wage and Tax Statement," or never received one from your employer?

The Internal Revenue Service said if you don't receive one or it's been misplaced, check with your employer by Feb. 1. If you can't get it by Feb. 15, call the IRS office listed in the telephone book for your area.

If you need to call IRS about the W-2, some information you will need is the name, address and telephone number of your employer.

Check the W-2 carefully. If there is any mistake on it, contact your employer immediately so a corrected copy may be issued to you and the government.

Information on the W-2 is extremely important, and it's to your benefit that it is correct, said IRS officials. The W-2 includes wages paid, federal income tax withheld, Social Security wages and taxes withheld, earned income credit payments and Medicare information.

Remember to attach a copy of all your W-2s for the year to your federal tax return, said IRS officials. Forgetting to include a copy of the W-2 with the tax package is one of the most common errors people make when filing their taxes.

One loaded pub

If you are looking for one IRS publication that has everything IRS can do for you, ask for IRS Publication 910.

"Guide to Free Tax Services" provides lists of free publications, telephone numbers to call for help and local tax assistance programs.

Tax return copies

Many taxpayers forget to put adequate identification information on checks or money orders when paying federal taxes, said IRS officials. Without the information, a check that becomes separated from the return cannot be credited to the taxpayer's account.

IRS officials recommend the information on the payment include name, Social Security number, mailing address and daytime telephone number.

If you are making the payment for someone else, make sure that person's name and Social Security number are on the check.

Be sure the check or money order is signed, and don't abbreviate "IRS," spell it out.

Under no circumstances, said IRS officials, should you ever send cash or postage stamps with your federal tax return.

Low-interest, low-inflation

An extended period of low inflation and low interest rates was forecast recently by Dr. Allen Sinai, chief economist for The Boston Company.

Speaking at a meeting of the Institute of Certified Financial Planners, the economist reports that low inflation is the single biggest reason for optimism, and it will be the principal source of future economic growth.

On the down side, the Planners predict slow job growth.

It also explains the tax service's Problem Resolution Office and how to get copies of past tax returns.

For a free copy of the publication, call IRS toll-free at 1-800-829-3676 or write to: IRS, Forms Distribution Center, P.O. Box 25866, Richmond, VA 23289.



Coming Events at the lakes

Carlyle Lake

- May 7 Visitor Center Grand Opening
- May 21-22 Armed Forces Day
- June 25 Kaskaskia Duck Race
- July 2 Fireworks Spectacular
- July 6-10 U.S. Olympic Festival '94
- Aug. 6 Triathlon
- Sept. 24-25 Conservation Day/Power Boat Race
- Oct. 21-22 Haunted Trail
- Dec. 2 Christmas Tree Lighting

Lake Shelbyville

- April 23 March for the Parks
- June 4 National Trails Day
- June 18-19 Arts and Crafts Show
- July 16-17 Tours of Old Lithia Springs Chautauqua
- July 30-31 Aqua-Fest
- Aug. 20 Okaw Indian Festival
- Oct. 6 18th Annual Eco-Meet

Rend Lake

- April 22 Earth Day
- May 21-22 Festival of Arts and Crafts
- June 4-5 Ski Show
- June 11 Family Fishing Derby
- July 2-4 4th of July Fireworks Festival
- July 30 Summer Beach Blast '94
- Sept. 10 Rend Lake Cleanup
- Sept. TBA Children's Arts Festival

Almost every Saturday between Memorial Day and Labor Day, special Environmental and Outdoor Skills programs are held at the Visitor Center. On most Saturday evenings musical and cultural heritage programs are held at the Visitor Center Amphitheater.

Wappapello Lake

- April 9 Spring Roadside Cleanup
- April 16-17 16th Annual Black Powder Rendezvous
- May 21-22 Silver Bullet National Drag Boat Race
- June 12 4th Annual Disabled Person Fishing Day
- July 2-3 Waterfest '94
- Aug. 20-21 3rd Annual Old Greenville Day
- Dec. 15-23 2nd Annual Festival of Lights Auto Tour

Mark Twain Lake

- April 30/May 1 Young at Heart Weekend
- May 21 An American Celebration
- June 11-12 And Still it Rained - Flood of '93
- Woodsy's World: A Child's Adventure into Nature
- July 1-3 Rodeo
- July 16-17 Reminisce - Post Card Exhibit
- July 24-25 Primitive Artifacts Weekend
- Aug. 13-14 Salt River Folklife Festival
- Sept. 23 Environmental Education Day
- Oct. 8 An Evening with the Stars
- February weekends - photo exhibit on Herman, Missouri - 1895-1920. March weekends - photo exhibit - Outdoor Writers Assoc. of America. April Weekends - Wetlands Exhibit. All at the M.W. Boudreaux Visitor Center.

Riverlands Area Office

- April 10-16 National Wildlife Week
- April 17-23 National Volunteer Week
- April 22-24 Earth Day March for Parks
- June 17-18 Melvin Price L&D Dedication
- July 1-4 Fireworks on the Mississippi
- Aug. 15-19 Rivers Curriculum Workshop
- Sept. Riverlands Environmental Fair

The IRS holds refunds for debts

If you have a tax refund coming, but owe on a student loan, spousal support or some other type of debt, you may find your refund check worth less.

Some states and federal agencies are asking the IRS for part or all of an individual's refund check to pay debts, such as back child support payments.

IRS may contact you to let you

know money is being withheld from your refund. IRS will let you know how much and to what agency it is going. However, said IRS officials, it is up to you to contact the agency to work out the problem. All IRS is doing is applying your tax refund to a debt.

A spouse who doesn't owe child support or a federal agency and who filed jointly with a spouse who does may be considered an

"injured spouse." As such, said IRS officials, the spouse can file IRS Form 8379, "Injured Spouse Claim and Allocation," for his or her share of the refund that would otherwise be used to pay off the debt.

Call toll-free 1-800-829-3676 for a copy of the form. For specifics on the program, check with the local IRS office or call toll-free 1-800-829-1040.



To your health

Odd moments of exercise add up for heart protection

We would like to spend a regular half hour in the gym - or take a long scenic walk for better health. But sometimes it's just not in the cards.

Now there's good news for people who do not have a regular exercise routine: You can benefit greatly from accumulating 30 minutes of exercise in a given day.

A growing body of research indicates that five minutes of activity here, ten there and a few later on, add up to a reduction in your risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, osteoporosis and certain kinds of cancer.

It's not that difficult to come up with half an hour of activity. Take the stairs instead of the elevator. Park at a distant point in the parking lot and walk briskly into work or into the mall. Wrestle on the floor with your children or



Walk the dog, stack boxes, or sweep the floor. Activity adds up to better health.

grandchildren, restack boxes in the basement or garage.

A panel assembled for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that only one in five adults engages in a half hour's worth of daily activity. For a person who is very sedentary,

even a little physical activity can reduce the risk of disease as much as quitting smoking, according to the American College of Sports medicine. (Health-conscious people who exercise 20 to 30 minutes several times a week are doing the right thing because exercise keeps people looking and feeling good.)

For those of us whose most strenuous activity is walking from the dinner table to the sofa, however, this is important information. It means we really can have longer, healthier lives even if we never put on gym clothes or work up a sweat.

Panel experts quoted in the Tufts University Diet & Nutrition Letter reported that physically active people live longer than inactive people even if they start moving late in life. It's never too late to get healthier and stronger.

Check that refrigerator

Harmful bacteria do not stop multiplying unless they are exposed to a temperature below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, (8 degrees Celsius), but one in five refrigerators in homes register significantly higher temperatures.

The Journal of the American Dietetic Association recommends testing the refrigerator temperature with a thermometer. Turn it to a lower setting if it's not cold enough to stop bacteria growth, or replace the unit.

Heart patients: Don't exercise right after a meal

Exercise is an important part of treatment for patients with heart disease. But now a Montreal Heart Institute study of patients with stable angina shows that it's best not to exercise right after meals.

They found ischemia (reduced oxygen flow to the heart) came on 20 percent faster, and angina came on 15 percent faster during exercise tests taken 30 minutes after the subject ate a 1,000 calorie meal.

The Institute recommends waiting 30 minutes after a smaller meal and at least 90 minutes after a large meal before exercising.

If a person with controlled heart disease knows that vigorous activity is coming up soon, he or she should eat less.

Whooping cough

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that cases of whooping cough in 1993 were higher than any year since 1967. The cause, CDC says, is failure to receive immunization.



Retiree Review

By the Retiree Correspondent

On January 20 eighteen retirees braved the cold, snow, etc., to attend the luncheon at the Salad Bowl.

Steve Williams and Paul Trauth shared the Senior Retiree honor. Richard Sovar, the latest retiree, attended. Glad to see Rich. Hope he is a regular.

Kate Stiles was there - recovered from her knee "overhaul" on December 22nd. Fortunately it was a revision instead of complete replacement. (They gave her the used parts!) She wasn't brave enough to drive solo. She mooched a ride. (Her daughter said she couldn't drive even if she had to hide her keys!) Her knee is doing great - already a 110 degree bend.

Pete and Marie Puricelli visited Kate's room at the hospital. She was on her way down to therapy. John Jansen was her escort, so they missed seeing her. Pete had out patient surgery to correct a "trigger finger," so dropped in to see her. Pete's hand is fine.

Charlie Denzel was due home from the hospital that day after having angioplasty. Hope for good progress, Charlie.

Dick Cameron had called Pete Puricelli. He reported he's doing great. We misinformed everyone. He did not have his pancreas removed. Glad he's doing so well.

Bruce Moore has had triple bypass surgery, but is recuperating nicely. Keep it up Bruce.

Condolences are extended to the Dale Modde family. Dale passed away after a valiant fight with cancer on January 8th.

Condolences are also extended to the families of Gordon (Bud) Grogg, who also passed away on

January 8th, Bernice Schmalte, who passed away on January 9th (Bernice was Lyle Forth's sister), Beatrice Leslie (Mrs. John J.), who passed away on December 21st, and Dorothy Heberer (Mrs. John), who passed away on December 22nd. The two Johns were old time retirees.

Paul Trauth's wife is convalescing with Paul's care - doing real well. Hope for a speedy recovery.

Irving Brandt's wife has not been doing well lately, but is feeling better at this writing.

Kate had a letter from Clinton Turner reporting on his trip to Cameron, West Africa. A very interesting trip.

Genevieve Wurst (Mrs. Al) is planning to come to St. Louis late in spring. Hope she can attend a luncheon.

Helen Kavanaugh is doing real well. Leuetta (Letty) Duff has adjusted to the nursing home beautifully. Kate has talked to her several times. They have many activities at the nursing home. Letty is kept quite busy.

Kate has talked to several retirees: Ed Schnieder, Bill Holcomb, Mary Barron, Vera Oheim, Lyle Forth, the Modde family and Irving Brandt.

See you on February 17 (3rd Thursday), 1994, at the Salad Bowl, 1949 Lindell, about 11:00 for good food, repartee, hearing from and seeing old friends. Don't forget. Mark your calendar!

African-American role (cont.)

The total number of black officers in the Air Force is 4,738, or 5.6 percent of the officer corps, while there are 59,900 black enlisted members. This equals 16.8 percent of the enlisted corps. Overall, blacks account for 14.7 percent of the Air Force.

African-American women play a major role in DoD, said personnel officials. In the Army, there are 31,001 black women, 43.8 percent of the 70,797 women in uniform; Navy, 13,148 black women, 24.3 percent of 54,190; Marine Corps, 2,012 black women, 25.6 percent of 7,864; and Air Force, 14,103 black women, 21.3 percent of 66,192.

Condolences

Dale Modde, who retired from the Engineering Division's then Programs and Development Branch, passed away in Rolla, Missouri, on January 8.

Gordon (Bud) Grogg, long-time member of the Construction Division who retired in 1979, also passed away January 8.

Executives don't relax

Nine out of ten executives say they need vacations to cope with job stress. A study published in "Worth" magazine, however, leads one to conclude they don't relax much on vacations. Some 47 percent say they bring work with them, and 30 percent say they call their offices several times a day while away.



'Anzio Annie' Kept Allies Pinned Down Until... Beached Whale Finally Got Legs

I had hoped that we were hurling a wildcat onto the shore, but all we had got was a stranded whale." Winston Churchill said this about the forces that invaded Anzio, Italy.

The operation made perfect sense and should have succeeded.

Impetus for the amphibious landing at Anzio came from the situation at the Gustav Line around Monte Cassino. The Germans stalemated the Allied push up the Italian peninsula. Planners hoped an amphibious landing behind German lines would trap German forces and force them to evacuate.

American and British troops hit the beach Jan. 22, 1944, against practically no opposition. The way toward Rome was clear. A thrust toward the Eternal City would have cut off German reinforcements and opened the way for the bulk of the U.S. Fifth and British Eighth armies. But the commander, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John Lucas, was timid. He decided he had to wait for reserves before attacking toward Rome.

He held in place for a week, building up 69,000 U.S. and British troops and their supplies. Still, he delayed.

The day after the landings, the Germans launched intensive air attacks against the Allied beachhead and then moved in ground troops from as far away as southern France and Yugoslavia to contain what Adolf Hitler called an "abscess." The Germans launched offensives to push the Allies

back into the sea.

The wildcat became a stranded whale. The battle settled into a siege with all the Allied beachhead under fire from German artillery. During the four-month battle for Anzio, Allied forces suffered more than 72,000 casualties. By comparison, there were 15,000 casualties during the Normandy invasion.

Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Bill Mauldin was at the beachhead. He said the German 88mm artillery was "the terror of every dogface." Two huge 280mm railway guns also shelled the beachhead. Allied troops dubbed the

guns "Anzio Annie" and the "Anzio Express."

Allied officials replaced Lucas with 3rd U.S. Infantry Division commander Maj. Gen. Lucian K. Truscott Jr. He galvanized the troops on the beachhead and planned an offensive in coordination with troops from the Fifth Army. On May 23, the Anzio troops staged a breakout and linked up with relieving troops.

They captured Rome on June 4, 1944 — four months after they could have.

— American Forces Information Service



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